



## Montgomery County Department of Transportation

# MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Study

January 19, 2010

## Purpose of this Meeting

- ➔ Introduce the study and the team members
- ➔ Present the environmental review and planning process
- ➔ Present the draft project purpose and needs
- ➔ Review the project schedule
- ➔ Solicit feedback on the study



MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Study

## Introduction

- ➔ The NEPA Study started December 2009
- ➔ The NEPA Study is a federal requirement before Federal funding can be used
- ➔ Future phases would be dependent upon the results of the NEPA study and available Federal funding
- ➔ Study funded by the Montgomery County Government



**MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Study**

## Introduction

### Potential Funding Sources for Construction:

- ☐ Defense Access Road (DAR) funding
- ☐ Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant
- ☐ 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill



**MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Study**

## Introduction

### Partner agencies

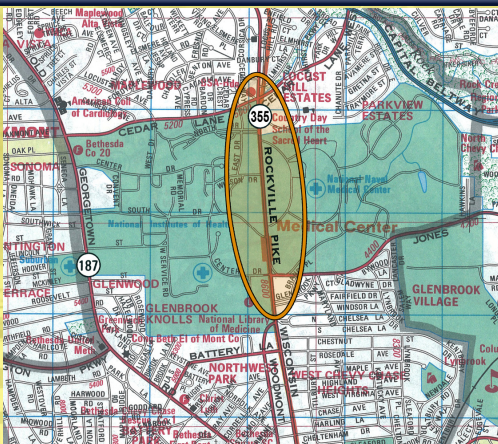
- ☐ Federal Highway Administration (Lead Federal Agency)
- ☐ National Naval Medical Center (NNMC)
- ☐ National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- ☐ Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration
- ☐ MNCPPC
- ☐ WMATA
- ☐ Others



### MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Study

## Study Area

MD 355 (Wisconsin Ave)  
between Jones Bridge  
Road and Cedar Lane



### MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Study

## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study Process

- ➔ NEPA provides a public decision-making process that outlines procedures in considering the potential environmental impacts of a full array of study alternatives.
- ➔ Three stages of a NEPA study:
  - ☐ Project scoping
  - ☐ Alternatives development and evaluation
  - ☐ Decision-making and final documentation



**MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Study**

## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study Process

### Stage I - Project Scoping

- ☐ Development of a draft Purpose and Need Statement
- ☐ Understanding the study area by collecting environmental and engineering inventory data
- ☐ Introducing the project to interested stakeholders
- ☐ Creating a dialogue for potential solutions



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## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study Process

### Stage II - Developing and Evaluating Study Alternatives

- ☐ Analyzing a full array of possible solutions
- ☐ Screening of alternatives resulting in a smaller set for detailed analysis
- ☐ Detailed engineering and environmental analysis of remaining study alternatives
- ☐ Presenting results of study to interested stakeholders
- ☐ Refining alternatives based on public input



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## National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study Process

### Stage III - Decision-Making and Documentation

- ☐ Refine alternatives based on public input
- ☐ Identify a preferred alternative
- ☐ Document the study, public input and reasoning behind selection of an alternative
- ☐ Receive approval from lead federal agency on environmental documentation



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## Public Involvement Plan

- ➔ Public outreach and interaction will occur throughout the study process
- ➔ Major features of the plan include:
  - ☐ Regular updates at BRAC Implementation Committee (BIC) meetings
  - ☐ Public Alternates Workshop
  - ☐ Updates on the County's BRAC web page
  - ☐ Community meetings
  - ☐ Elected official and other briefings



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## Draft Purpose and Need Statement

### Purpose of Project

- ☐ Improve the mobility and safety of motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists crossing MD 355 / Rockville Pike in Bethesda
- ☐ Enhance / improve access to mass transit facilities



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## Study Schedule and Milestones

- ☐ Begin NEPA study – December 2009
- ☐ Develop Purpose and Need Statement summary – January 2010
- ☐ Scope preliminary alternatives – January / February 2010
- ☐ Evaluate shortlist of alternatives – March / April 2010
- ☐ Conduct public workshop to review detailed study – April / May / 2010
- ☐ Identify selected alternative – May 2010
- ☐ Complete environmental documentation – June 2010



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## Scoping of Potential Solutions

- ➔ Study Team will review a full array of potential options
  - ☐ Previously studied concepts
  - ☐ New concepts generated by the Study Team
  - ☐ New concepts from public and stakeholder agency input

***We Want Your Input!***



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